

# *City of Alexandria, Virginia*

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** OCTOBER 5, 2011

**TO:** KEVIN POSEY, CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**FROM:** ABI LERNER, P.E., DEPUTY DIRECTOR, T&ES

**SUBJECT** AGENDA ITEM #6 - Update on BRAC-133

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**ISSUE:** A number of mitigation measures associated with the BRAC-133 facility at the Mark Center are being evaluated or are moving into various stages of implementation. The most significant of these are the HOV/Transit Ramp and the Short and Mid-Term Road Improvements. Other transportation related activities underway are traffic monitoring, GRIP, enhanced transit, and implementation of daytime parking.

**RECOMMENDATION:** No Action is required. Information only.

**DISCUSSION:**

1. HOV/Transit Ramp – This project is subject to an Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to the FHWA NEPA process. The project is being managed by VDOT with the environmental work being done under their general engineering contracts. Scoping letters were sent out to public agencies and a unified response from the City was returned on September 15, 2011. Comments and questions from residents were solicited via the BRAC-133 Advisory Group and attached to the City's response. The VDOT public hearing for the EA is scheduled for December 15, 2011, which will begin the 30 day public comment period.
2. Short and Mid-Term Road Improvements – This project, involving intersection and lane improvements in the immediate environs of the Mark Center and the Seminary Road interchange, is also moving forward. Like the HOV/Transit Ramp, it is also subject to NEPA review, but is being done as a Categorical Exclusion (CE), and is being managed by FHWA. The current schedule shows the project completed by December of 2013.
3. Governor's Task Force – VDOT, under the directive of the Governor, has established a Task Force with a series of working groups to address evolving situations related to construction, operations, communications, transit/TDM opportunities and integrated management in the corridor. VDOT is carefully monitoring the traffic conditions at I-395 and Seminary Road and is documenting those conditions using photographs, traffic counts, and field assessments.

4. Enhanced Transit – Both the DASH express service between King Street Metro and the Mark Center and the WMATA service between the Pentagon and the Mark Center are in operation. Both of these services are seeing steady increases in ridership as the BRAC-133 facility is occupied.
5. GRIP Traffic Control - With only about 2,200 positions moved into the building so far, there has been no noticeable increase in traffic congestion. As a cost saving measure, the Police Department is scaling back having the officers present and will monitor the conditions very closely to determine when to ramp back up should conditions warrant.